THIRD DAY.—*Wednesday, 7th June 1933.*

The House reassembled at 12 NOON.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—(*Continued*).

MR. RAME GOWDA (Chintamani Taluk).—

Q.—16. Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) Are the Government aware that the findings of the committee appointed to revise the dry rates in the Kolar District did not render any help to the raiyats ?

(*b*) Are Government aware that the members of the district have been pressing persistently for the last three years that Government should cause necessary action to be taken *re.* the re-consideration of this question ?

(*c*) Has it come to the notice of Government that the dry rates prevailing in this district were heavier than in other districts, even before the introduction of re-survey in the State ?

(*d*) What is the excess amount that is being collected per acre on dry lands after re-survey over the rates prevailing before the re-survey ?

(*e*) Has it come to the notice of Government that the prices of agricultural products have gone down during the last three years ?

(*f*) Are the Government aware that it would be very difficult for the raiyats to pay assessment, if the excess of assessment over that imposed on others were not reduced ?

SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.—

A.—16. (*a*) No.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The statement is not supported by facts.

(*d*) *Vide* statement annexed (*vide* Appendix).

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) This does not arise in view of the answer to clause (*c*) above.

Supplementary Questions and Answers.

Mr. S. Venkataswami Gowda.—

The answer to sub-section (*a*) is "No." Have not the Government seen the report of the committee?

First Member of Council.—

They have gone through the report of the committee. But they do not agree that the recommendations have not benefited the raiyats.

Mr. S. Venkataswami Gowda.—

The answer to sub-section (*b*) is in the affirmative. If so, what steps have the Government taken to give relief to the raiyats?

Secretary to Government, Development Department.—

We are aware that the people of the district have been pressing for a re-consideration of the question. The question of relief does not arise out of that point.

Mr. S. Venkataswami Gowda.—

On what basis was the answer to sub-section (*c*) furnished?

Secretary to Government, Development Department.—

On the basis that in Bangalore District, for example, the rates in certain taluks are higher than in the Kolar District.

Mr. S. Venkataswami Gowda.—

Will the Government be pleased to let us know the dry rates prevailing in the several districts?

First Member of Council.—

The information might be had from the printed lists.

Mr. S. Ramappa.—

What is the reason for not giving the rates obtaining in Srinivasapur Taluk in the appendix to sub-section (*d*) of the answer?

First Member of Council.—

In the original survey, it should have come under some other taluk, probably, Chintâmani Taluk.

Mr. S. Ramappa.—

Will it be possible to furnish the rates of assessment now prevailing in the Srinivasapur Taluk ?

First Member of Council.—

Yes.

Mr. S. Ramappa.—

Has it come to the notice of the Government that the recommendations of the committee are not satisfactory to the raiyats ?

First Member of Council.—

No.

Mr. S. Ramappa.—

Was not a representation made in this House that a mixed committee of officials and non-officials should be appointed to re-investigate the question and make a report ?

First Member of Council.—

Government have decided that there is no need for appointing another committee.

Mr. S. Ramappa.—

Then what is the object of bringing this fact to the notice of the Government again and again ?

First Member of Council.—

That question can be better answered by the movers concerned.

Mr. H. C. Dasappa.—

Have not the Government in one of their statements before this House admitted that on an average the rates in the Kolar District are higher than those in other districts ?

First Member of Council.—

Please refer to the proceedings for an answer.

Mr. H. C. Dasappa.—

Have the Government investigated at any time whether the average rate in the Kolar District is higher than that anywhere else ?

First Member of Council.—

We have got talukwar figures and have furnished them in answer to the question. Some members said that, in the Kolar District, the rates are very high. But, in Bangalore, the rates are in some cases even higher. The question asked for relates to the prevailing dry rates and not to the averages. Government have not calculated the average rates separately for any district.

Mr. H. C. Dasappa.—

Were there any non-officials on the committee appointed to go into the question of assessments in the Kolar District ?

First Member of Council.—

I do not think there were any.

Mr. H. C. Dasappa.—

Would it not have been better if there had been some non-officials on it?

First Member of Council.—

That is a matter of opinion.

Mr. H. C. Dasappa.—

Why were not non-officials included in the committee?

First Member of Council.—

Government did not find it necessary to do so. The non-officials would always recommend reduction of the assessment. They were however examined as witnesses.

Mr. H. C. Dasappa.—

In future at least, when committees are appointed to investigate into such matters, will the Government include some non-official members ?

First Member of Council.—

Government have at present no intention of appointing such a committee.

Mr. G. Girimaji Rao.—

What is the reason for the dry rates in frontier taluks like Bagepalli being fixed very much higher than those in

the adjoining British Indian taluks when the nature of the soil is the same in both the cases?

Secretary to Government, Development Department.—

I cannot accept the statement that the nature of soil in both the places is the same.

Mr. G. Girimaji Rao.—

Will the Government be pleased to make an investigation into the question?

Dewan.—

We are not discussing the question of soil survey now.

Mr. G. Girimaji Rao.—

Have the Government made any enquiry into the economic condition of the people of the district to find out how far the people are able to bear the existing rates of assessment?

First Member of Council.—

That is outside the scope of the question.

Captain Y. V. Ayya.—

It was stated by the Government that the rates in the Bangalore District are in some cases higher than those in Kolar. Are they higher than the standard rates?

First Member of Council.—

All that we can say is that, in the Bangalore District, there are certain taluks where the dry rates are higher than those in the Kolar District.

Captain Y. V. Ayya.—

What is the reason?

First Member of Council.—

We cannot say it off-hand without looking into the settlement records.

Mr. K. Chengalaraya Reddy.—

With reference to answer to (*c*), will the Government be pleased to state whether in the Taxation Enquiry Committee

report, Mr. N. S. Subba Rao has not stated that the rates in the Kolar District are very high?

First Member of Council.—

I do not remember it.

Mr. K. Chengalaraya Reddy.—

In reply to Mr. Dasappa's supplementary question whether it would not have been better to have non-officials on the committee, Government said that the non-officials would always recommend a reduction of the assessment. Would official members ever recommend reduction?

First Member of Council.—

There is no reason why they should not.

Mr. K. Chengalaraya Reddy.—

Did not the committee recommend certain special facilities like construction of roads and drinking water wells in the district? How have those recommendations been disposed of?

First Member of Council.—

If I remember right, under Village Improvements, Kolar District has been given larger grants than other districts.

Mr. L. Vema Reddy.—

Did not the people of the district repeatedly represent even before the re-survey operations, that the pre-re-survey rates were high and should be reduced?

Secretary to Government, Development Department.—

It is usual for the people to complain.

Mr. L. Vema Reddy.—

If it is a fact that the rates are very high, is it not the duty of the Government to reduce them?

Secretary to Government, Development Department.—

It is a recognised fact that the rates in Mysore are the cheapest in the whole of India. And I may add that, in the Kolar District itself, the revenue rates in inam villages are higher than those on Government lands.